

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Office of County Judge Mark Henry  
Galveston County, TX

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## GALVESTON COUNTY DELIVERS SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT PAY RAISES, FOURTH STRAIGHT TAX CUT

FY2015 Budget: Pro-Law Enforcement, Reduced Spending & Increased Salaries

September 9, 2014

**GALVESTON, TX** – Six years after Hurricane Ike delivered a devastating blow to Galveston County, the Galveston County Commissioners Court has adopted another fiscally responsible budget that will lower taxes while improving services for the fourth consecutive year.

In addition to reducing the tax rate ½ cent, to a rate below the Effective Tax Rate, the Commissioners' Court delivered major pay raises totaling about three quarters of a million dollars for law enforcement positions in the Sheriff's Department; implemented merit raises across the county along with inflation adjusted raises with a lump-sum payment of \$500 to be delivered around the holidays; implemented projects to expand public access to the justice system and other county services by leveraging significant investments in technology; and are scheduled to reduce the county's debt another \$20 million in the coming year.

Galveston County Sheriff Henry Trochesset said the adopted budget was a step in the right direction. "I want to thank the county commissioners and County Judge Mark Henry for a budget that is pro-law enforcement and takes the first step to bringing our law enforcement personnel to comparable regional salaries. I look forward to continue working with them to complete this over the next couple years. And the additional four staff members will assist in reducing overtime costs in the county jail."

After years of stagnant wages in county government, this is the third consecutive annual pay increase for all county employees. At the same time, the size of county staff was reduced by more than 2% for the fourth consecutive year. Both changes reflect the county's ongoing effort to deliver a smaller, more professional county government.

Galveston County Economic Development is another key area focused on by Commissioners' Court. The budget creates a senior staff position to assist with the coordination of economic development and strategic planning on a county-wide basis to compliment the work being done by independent economic development agencies throughout the region.

The budget also increases funding to the county library system; expands the county's engineering department staff and purchases major capital construction equipment; enhances the Human Resources Department by creating a dedicating recruiting position; and builds the county's self-insurance fund reserves.

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**Additional Information Attached:** Letter from David Delac, Finance Department

**Contact:** If you'd like more information contact:

Tyler Drummond, County Judge's Chief of Staff at 409-765-2637; or

Galveston County Sheriff Henry Trochesset at 409-766-2301.